

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for controlling the streaming of voice data in a local area network,
2 the method comprising:
3 identifying at least one device to be used in a connection among a plurality
4 of devices coupled to the local area network;
5 identifying at least one mode for each of the at least one device to be used in
6 the connection; and
7 setting the at least one mode for the at least one device.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the mode for each device
2 comprises identifying at least one sink and at least one source for the connection.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, and further including locking the mode of the at least
2 one device during the connection.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, and further using a semaphore to prevent multiple
2 devices from simultaneously changing modes.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein setting the at least one mode of the at least
2 one device comprises setting at least one mode of at least one of a server, a
3 telephone and a computer.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein setting at least one mode of the at least one
2 device comprises setting at least one mode of one device to communicate as a
3 source for multiple devices on the local area network.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, and further including streaming data over the
2 connection based on the at least one mode of the at least one device.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein streaming data comprises:

2 transmitting voice signals from a telephone to a computer; and
3 processing the voice signals with the computer.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein streaming data comprises:
2 providing voice data from a telephone to a server for transmission over
3 another network; and
4 providing voice data to an application program running on a computer.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein streaming data comprises providing voice
2 commands through a telephone to a computer to interact with an external network.

1 11. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon to perform
2 the method comprising:
3 identifying at least one device to be used in a connection among a plurality
4 of devices coupled to a local area network; for
5 identifying at least one mode for each of the at least one device to be used in
6 the connection; and
7 setting the at least one mode for the at least one device.

1 12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein identifying the at least
2 one mode for each device comprises identifying at least one sink and at least one
3 source for the connection.

1 13. The computer readable medium of claim 11, and further including locking
2 the mode of the at least one device during the connection.

1 14. The computer readable medium of claim 11, and further using a semaphore
2 to prevent multiple devices from simultaneously changing mode.

1 15. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein setting the at least one
2 mode of the at least one device comprises:

3 setting at least one mode of a server;
 4 setting at least one mode of a telephone; and
 5 setting at least one mode of a computer.

1 16. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein setting the at least one
 2 mode of the at least one device comprises setting the mode of one device to
 3 communicate as a source for multiple devices coupled to the local area network.

1 17. A local area network, comprising:
 2 a server/gateway coupled to at least one external network;
 3 a plurality of devices that send and receive voice data, the plurality of
 4 devices selectively and communicatively coupled together and to the
 5 server/gateway; and
 6 a signal streaming controller, associated with the server/gateway and the
 7 plurality of devices, that selects a mode of operation for selected ones of the
 8 server/gateway and the plurality of devices.

1 18. The local area network of claim 17, wherein the plurality of devices
 2 comprises:
 3 at least one telephone coupled to the server/gateway; and
 4 at least one computer coupled to the server/gateway and coupled to the
 5 telephone.

1 19. The local area network of claim 17, wherein the plurality of devices includes
 2 at least one of an Ethernet and an Internet Protocol phone.

1 20. The local area network of claim 17, wherein the signal streaming mechanism
 2 includes a semaphore that prevents multiple devices from simultaneously changing
 3 state.

